

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

SAM-01 OMB-01 /070 W

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R 151400Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7363

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0518

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, YE

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO HAMDI

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN AL-ASNAJ OUTLINES WARY RELATIONSHIP
OF YARG WITH LEFTISTS.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ ON
FEB. 12, CHARGE WAS TOLD THT YARG HAD
BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL EFFORTS OF REFORM COMMITTEE HEAD
DAHMAH TO SHAKE UP GOVERNMENT DRAMATICALLY.

3. ASNAJ SAID DAHMASH WAS A FRIEND OF HAMDI AND
FOR THAT REASON HAD BEEN ABLE TO PERSUADE THE PRESIDENT
THAT REFORM COMMITTEE WAS GOOD OPPORTUNITY ATTEMPT TO
BRING CERTAIN LEFTIST AND OTHERS WITH PDRY SYMPATHIES
INTO ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES CONTROLLED BY THE
YARG. ASNAJ SAID HE AND PRIME MINISTER HAD
AT LENGTH BEEN ABLE PERSUADE PRESIDENT THAT DHAMASH
BEING USED BY LEFTISTS MORE THAN HE USING THEM.
GRANDIOSE PLANS OF REFORM COM ITTEE TO DISSOLVE
MINISTRIES AND CHANGE LEADERSHIP HAD THEREFORE BEEN
THWARTED.

4. ASNAJ SAID THERE ARE EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO STRENGTH-
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EN AND REFORM ADMINISTRATION IN YARG BUT IT WAS CON-

TINUING EFFORT THAT ASNAJ AND ABDAL AZIZ HAD STARTED
SOMETIME AGO AND HAD NOW FIRMLY BACK IN THEIR HANDS.

5. ASNAJ SAID LEFTISTS WANTED CHAOS AND TO SOW
SUSPICION WITHIN YARG RANKS AS WELL AS DISCREDIT
YARG IN EYES OF PEOPLE.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD COLLATERAL REPORTS ALONG
LINES DESCRIBED BY ASNAJ AND ALTHOUGH DAHMASH IS
STILL TOURING MINISTRIES AND GETTING PUBLICITY FOR
HIS COMMITTEE,
HE SEEMS TO BE POWERLESS TO DO
ANYTHING. PRIMIN ON OTHER HAND, IN HIS QUIET WAY,
IS CONTINUING TO SET UP PERSONNEL AND BUDGET CONTROLS
WHICH ESSENTIAL TO MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT. MOST
INTERESTING ASPECT OF EPISODE IN OUR EYES IS PICTURE
IT GIVES OF BALANCING ACT WHICH GOES ON WITHIN
GOVERNMENT CIRCLES. HAMDI CLEARLY DOES
NOT WANT TO LOSE CONTACT WITH LEFT AND OCCASIONALLY
GIVES THEM EXCESSIVE LEEWAY, BUT HE SEEMS AT
CRUCIAL MOMENT ALWAYS TO DRAW BACK TO RIGHTEST
OR MODERATE POSITIONS.
RANSOM

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